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**PAINTED**

AN EASY AND CONCISE  
INTRODUCTION  
TO  
MODERN GÉOGRAPHY,  
CONTAINING  
An enlarged Account of the British North American Colonies,  
Particularly  
LOWER AND UPPER CANADA,  
FOR THE USE OF  
CANADIAN SCHOOLS.



Quebec,

PRINTED AND SOLD BY W. COWAN AND SON, ST. JOHN STREET.

1841.

District of }  
Quebec. }

**Prothonotary's Office.**

*the 23rd day of February, 1841.*

Be it remembered that on the twenty-third day of February in the Year of Our Lord Christ one thousand eight hundred and forty one, William Cowan & Son have deposited in this Office, the Title of a work, which Title is in the words following, that is to say "An easy and concise introduction to Modern Geography, containing an enlarged account of the British North American Colonies, particularly Lower and Upper Canada, for the use of Canadian Schools" the right whereof they claim as proprietors.

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**PERRAULT & BURROUGHS,**

Prothonotary of Her Majesty's Court  
of King's Bench for District of Quebec

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# Turgeon, William

## PRELIMINARY NOTIONS.

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Q. WHAT is *geography* ?

A. Geography is a description of the earth.

Q. Of what form is the earth ?

A. The earth, or globe, is nearly round, like an orange.

Q. How large is the earth ?

A. The earth is about 25000 miles (a) in circumference and 8000 in diameter.

Q. How far is the earth from the sun ?

A. The earth is 96 millions of miles from the sun.

Q. Does the earth move ?

A. Yes, it has two motions, the one round the sun which it performs in a year, the other round its own axis every twenty-four hours.

Q. What is meant by the earth's *axis* ?

A. The earth's *axis* is an imaginary line from north to south passing through its centre.

Q. What is meant by the *poles* ?

A. The *poles* are the two extremities of the earth's axis. One is the *north* or *arctic* pole, the other the *south* or *antarctic* pole.

Q. What are the *cardinal points* ?

A. The *cardinal points* are the *north* or top of a map, the *east* or right-hand side, and *west* or left-hand side of the person facing a map.

Q. What is a *map* ?

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(a). English miles, 69½ to a degree.

A. A *map* is a picture of the earth or of a portion of the earth's surface.

Q. What is the *equator*?

A. The *equator* is a circular line equally distant from the two poles, cutting the earth into halves, called *hemispheres*. One is the *northern*, the other the *southern* hemisphere.

Q. What is the *meridian*?

A. The *meridian* is any circular line passing through the poles and cutting the earth into halves called the *eastern* and *western* hemispheres.

Q. What is *latitude*?

A. *Latitude* is the distance on the meridian of any place to the equator: latitude is counted by degrees, 360 of which make a circle.

Q. What is *longitude*?

A. *Longitude* is the distance between two meridians, counted on the equator or on any circle parallel to the equator.

Q. What are the *tropics*?

A. The *tropics* are two small circles parallel to the equator on each side of it at the distance of 23 degrees and a half. The northern tropic is called the *tropic of Cancer*; the southern one is called the *tropic of Capricorn*.

Q. What are the *polar circles*?

A. The *polar circles* are two small circles situated  $23\frac{1}{2}$  degrees from the poles. The northern one is called the *arctic circle*; the southern one, the *antarctic circle*.

Q. What are the *zones*?

A. The *zones* are circular bands into which the surface of the earth is divided by the tropics and polar circles. The wide band between the tropics is called the *torrid zone*; the two between the tropics and polar circles are called the *temperate zones*; and the

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two between the poles and polar circles, the *frigid* or *frozen zones*.

Q. What is a *continent* ?

A. A *continent* is a vast extent of land not separated by water.

Q. What is an *island* ?

A. An *island* is a smaller tract of land surrounded by water.

Q. What is a *peninsula* ?

A. A *peninsula* is a tract of land almost surrounded by water.

Q. What is an *isthmus* ?

A. An *isthmus* is a narrow neck of land which joins a peninsula to the continent or to the main land.

Q. What is a *cape* or *promontory* ?

A. A *cape* is a point of land stretching out into the sea. A high cape is called a *promontory*.

Q. What is a *mountain* ?

A. A *mountain* is a mass of rocks elevated above the surface of the globe. When several mountains are joined together they form a *chain*.

Q. What is a *volcano* ?

A. A *volcano* is a mountain which vomits fire and smoke and burning matter called *lava*.

Q. What is a *desert* ?

A. A *desert* is a very large tract of barren land usually sandy.

Q. What is a *coast* ?

A. A *coast* is a tract of land bordering on the sea.

Q. What is the *sea* or *ocean* ?

A. The *sea* or *ocean* is that immense extent of salt water which covers three quarters of the globe we inhabit (a).

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(a). More strictly speaking, a *sea* is a very large body of water nearly surrounded by land.



Q. What is a *gulph* or *bay* ?

A. A *gulph* or *bay* is a part of the ocean extending into the land. A bay is generally smaller than a gulph (a).

Q. What is a *strait* ?

A. A *strait* is a narrow passage of water between two portions of land. A wider passage is called a channel.

Q. What is a *sound* ?

A. It is a strait so shallow that its depth may be measured with a lead and line.

Q. What is a *port* or *harbour* ?

A. A *harbour* is a small bay where ships may anchor. A *port* is a bay fitted up to lodge ships safely, and repair them, if needful.

Q. What is a *lake* ?

A. A *lake* is a large body of water surrounded by land. A very small lake is called a *pond*.

Q. What is a *river* ?

A. When several small streams unite they form a *river*, which carries their waters to a larger river or to the sea.

Q. What is meant by the *source* and *mouth* of a river ?

A. The *source* of a river is the place from which it runs ; the place where it empties is called its *mouth*.

Q. Which is the *right* and which the *left bank* or *shore* of a river ?

A. The *right bank* is on the right hand of the person descending a river ; the other is the left bank or shore.

Q. What is a *canal* ?

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(a). There are also many *bays* formed by lakes and large rivers. Small bays are called *Creeks*, *Coves*, *Havens*, *Harbours*, &c.

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**A.** A *canal* is a sort of artificial river made to afford an easy and cheap conveyance in boats and small vessels from one part of a country to another.

**Q.** Which are the great divisions of the earth?

**A.** The earth is divided into five great portions, namely : America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Oceanica (a).

**Q.** Which are the great divisions of the Ocean?

**A.** The Atlantic Ocean, the Pacific Ocean, the Indian Ocean, the Southern or Antarctic Ocean, and the Northern or Arctic Ocean.

**Q.** What are the names of the principal inland seas?

**A.** They are four in number, namely : the Baltic Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, the Red Sea and the Caspian Sea.

**Q.** What is the population of the globe?

**A.** 800 millions of inhabitants, who belong to three races, the white, the yellow, and the black, and to four religions, namely : Christians, Jews, Mahometans and Pagans.

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(a). America is called the *Western Continent* or *New World*; Europe, Asia and Africa, the *Eastern Continent* or *Old World*; Oceanica comprises an immense extent of islands, one of which, New Holland, is the largest on the globe.



## AMERICA.

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**Q.** How is America bounded (a) ?

**A.** America is bounded N. by the Arctic Ocean ; S., by the straits of Magellan ; E., by the Atlantic, and W., by the Pacific Ocean.

**Q.** When and by whom was America discovered ?

**A.** In 1492, by Christopher Columbus, a native of Genoa, under the patronage of Ferdinand and Isabella, king and queen of Spain.

**Q.** For what is America distinguished ?

**A.** For the variety of its climate and productions, the number and magnitude of its rivers and lakes, and for its inexhaustible mines of gold and silver.

**Q.** What is the population of America ?

**A.** About 45 millions, comprising 27 millions of catholics, 17 millions of protestants and one million of unconverted Indians.

**Q.** How is America divided ?

**A.** Into two continents, called North and South America, which are joined together by the isthmus of Darien or Panama.

## NORTH AMERICA.

**Q.** What are the principal chains of mountains in North America ?

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(a) The boundaries of countries will generally be omitted, as they can easily be traced by the pupil on any good map—the same remark applies to several other details, as bays, gulphs, straits, capes, &c.

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A. The Rocky mountains, which extend from the Frozen Ocean through Mexico to S. A., and the Alleganys, which extend from Florida to the gulph of St. Lawrence.

Q. Name the five great lakes of North America ?

A. Lakes Superior, Huron, Michigan, Erie and Ontario.

Q. Name the four principal rivers of North America ?

A. The *St. Lawrence*, which carries the waters of the five great lakes and of many tributary rivers into the Atlantic Ocean ; the Mississippi, which runs through the United States into the gulph of Mexico ; the Mackenzie river, which rises in the Rocky Mountains and flows into the Arctic Ocean, and the Columbia river, which takes its source in the same mountains and flows westward into the Pacific Ocean.

Q. Which is the largest river in North America ?

A. The *St. Lawrence*, which is also celebrated for the beauty of its scenery, the clearness and salubrity of its waters, the vast abundance of fish it produces, and for the falls of Niagara, the grandest in the world. Ships of the line can sail up this mighty stream as far as Quebec, and merchant vessels of 350 tons as far as Montreal, which is 900 miles from the Ocean.

Q. What are the chief divisions of North America ?

A. British North America, Russian America, the United States, Texas, Mexico and Guatimala, to which may be added the West Indies and Greenland.

## BRITISH AMERICA.

Q. What is the extent of British America ?

A. British America extends north to Baffin's Bay and the Arctic Ocean ; east, to the Atlantic ; south,

to the United States territory ; west, to Russian America and the Pacific Ocean.

Q. How is British North America divided ?

A. Into Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Cape Breton, Prince Edward's Island, Newfoundland and New Britain.

Q. What is the population of British North America ?

A. About two millions, including fifty thousand Indians.

### CANADA.

Q. Who first discovered Canada ?

A. Jacques Cartier, a native of St. Malo in France, entered and named the gulph St. Lawrence on the 10th. Aug. 1534, and in the following year sailed up the river to Quebec and Montreal, then Indian villages.

Q. Describe the aboriginal inhabitants of Canada ?

A. Like all the North American Indians, except the Esquimaux, they were of a copper complexion, tall, straight and capable of enduring great fatigue. They were hospitable and generous to their friends, cruel and implacable to their enemies. Their principal employments were hunting, fishing and war.

Q. What European nation first settled in Canada ?

A. The French, under Monsieur de Champlain, who founded Quebec in 1608, and entered into a treaty of friendship with the neighbouring Indians.

Q. When did Canada become an English colony ?

A. Canada was ceded to England by the treaty of Paris in 1763, four years after the siege of Quebec, which surrendered to General Wolfe's army in Sept. 1759.

Q. How is Canada divided ?

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**A.** By an act of the Imperial Parliament, Canada was divided in 1791 into two provinces, called Upper and Lower Canada, each having a separate governor or lieutenant-governor, an executive council, a legislative council, and a representative assembly. But in the year 1840, an act was passed to reunite the two provinces with various changes in the laws and constitution.

**Q.** What was hitherto the line of separation between Upper and Lower Canada ?

**A.** The Ottawa river and the southern limits of Ottawa and Vaudreuil counties.

### LOWER CANADA.

**Q.** Name the districts of Lower Canada ?

**A.** Quebec, Montreal, Three Rivers, Gaspé, and St. Francis.

**Q.** Name the counties of Lower Canada ?

**A.** On the north shore, descending : Vaudreuil, Ottawa, Two Mountains, Montreal, Terrebonne, L'Assomption, Berthier, St Maurice, Champlain, Portneuf, Quebec, Montmorency, Saguenay ; on the south shore, ascending : Gaspé, Bonaventure, Rimouski, Kamouraska, L'Ilet, Bellechasse, Dorchester, Beauce, Megantic, Lotbinière, Nicolet, Yamaska, Drummond, Sherbrooke, Stanstead, Missiskoui, Shefford, St. Hyacinthe, Rouville, Richelieu, Verchères, Chambly, Laprairie, l'Acadie, Beauharnois : in all 38 counties (a).

**Q.** How are the counties of Lower Canada subdivided ?

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(a) The Union Act has united Orleans to Montmorency county, and Lachenaie to L'Assomption.



A. The counties bordering on the St Lawrence and some others originally settled by the French are for the most part composed of Seignories, each of which commonly forms a parish. The counties situated in the rear of the preceding ones are divided into *townships*, and are settled chiefly by emigrants from Great-Britain, Ireland and the United States.

Q. What are the principal mountains of Lower Canada ?

A. A chain, called the *heights of land*, extends from the Vermont frontier to Cape Rosier, on the gulph St. Lawrence, and is supposed to be in some points 5000 feet above the level of the sea ; another chain extends from the Labrador coast to the source of the Ottawa, and thence westward to the Rocky Mountains. The north shore of the St. Lawrence below Quebec is mountainous. There are also several detached mountains in the district of Montreal, as Belœil and Yamaska mountains, Rougemont, Mount Johnson, &c.

Q. Name the principal rivers of Lower Canada ?

A. On the north shore, the Ottawa, the St Maurice, the Saguenay, and several large rivers further down ; on the south shore, the Chambly or Richelieu the St Francis, and the Chaudière, besides many smaller streams too numerous to be mentioned.

Q. Are the rivers which empty into the St Lawrence navigable ?

A. They are nearly all obstructed by rapids and falls, some of which are very beautiful, particularly the Montmorency and Chaudière falls, near Quebec, and the falls of the Manitou river between the Seven Island and Mingan. The Saguenay is navigable for large ships to Chicoutimi, and the Richelieu for steamboat from Sorel to Chambly village.

Q. Are there any canals in Lower Canada ?

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